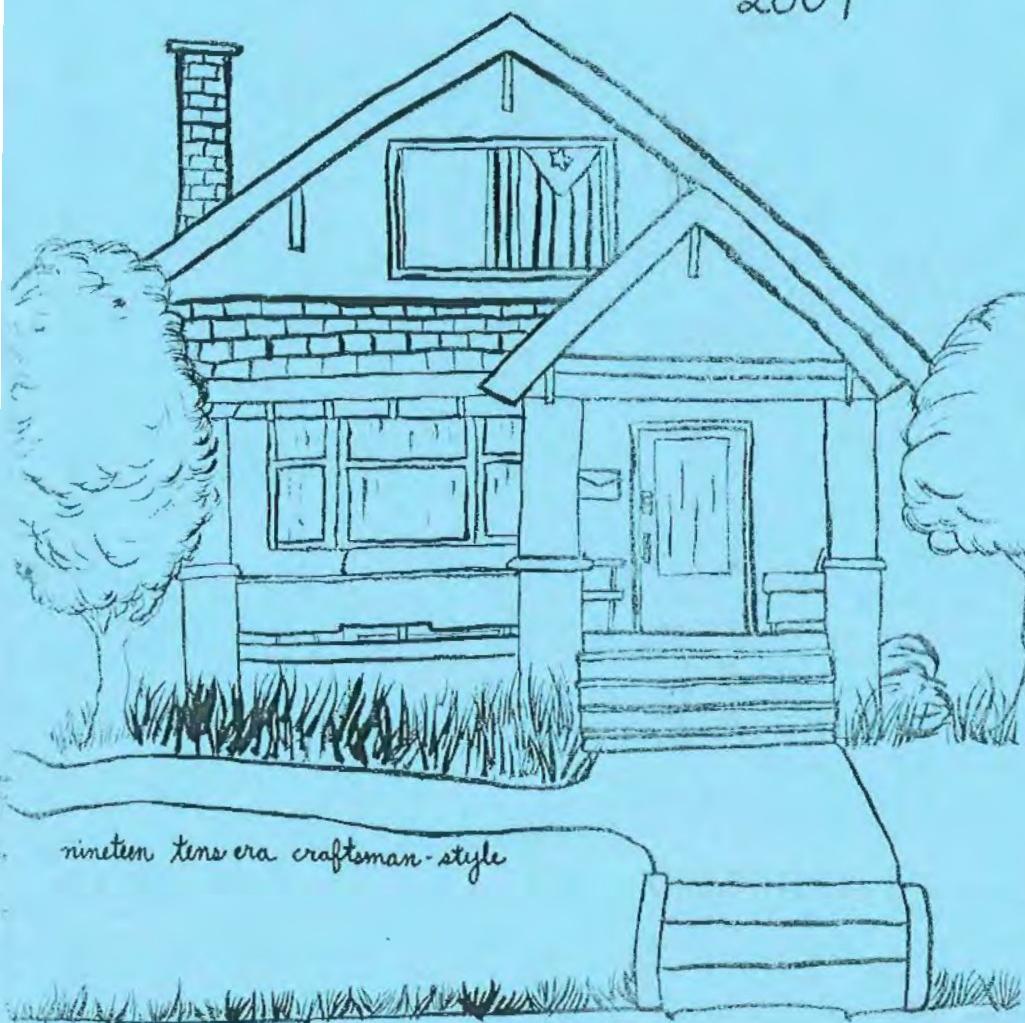


milkyboots nine

late summer and fall

2009



nineteen tens era craftsman-style

Hello friends!

This is the ninth issue of Milkyboots, my diary comics zine. It covers the end of July to November 2009, and includes many amazing hijinks and cat-related anecdotes.

I also should mention that my style changes drastically throughout this zine. I have been taking a comics class, which has both inspired me to try new tools and forced me to do my diary comics more quickly. So sorry about that - but it's all part of improving Milkyboots!

I hope you enjoy it!

- Virginia

For Olie + Lyra

Printed at the IPRC in Portland, OR



The combination of post-convention depression and the Weakerthans hit me at work.



It's been a long time since I've cried at work. The song made me think of Jen.



I went to meet Patrick  
to draw at Fresh Pot.



I overheard some people  
gossiping about Paris.

Then we went to Sloan's  
to meet Caroline.



And on to the Bye  
and Bye where things got  
awkward.



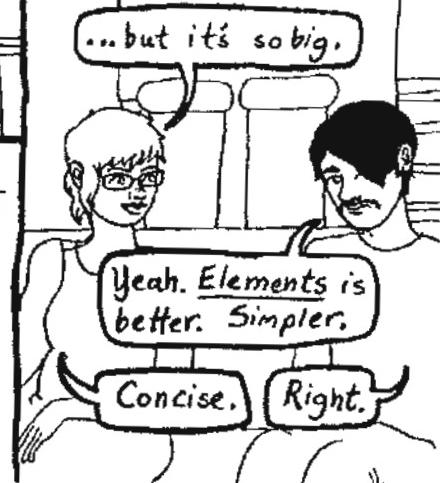
7月28日2009

I came home and  
invited people over for  
games night.



We played Risk and  
Mexican Train.

Then Winchel Heartless  
and I stayed up until  
3 talking about The  
Elements of Style.



A friend and I watched  
The Lion, the Witch and  
the Wardrobe in the  
backyard.

But Lewis was  
a theologian!

I dunno dude-  
the story is  
pretty  
archetypal.

7月29日2009

Then went to Bye+Bye  
and shared drinks.

My life is  
fuckin'  
awesome.

Yup.

Is this gonna  
be in the  
comic?

7月30日2009

You haven't seen my back piece yet. It's this dragon, like, fighting this tiger, and it symbolizes my inner turmoil.

And then, in the middle is like, the Japanese symbol for inner peace to symbolize my, y'know, inner peace.

You haven't seen my Joose tramp stamp.

Joose spelled...?

Yes.

And then I headed on home...

We might go swimming, but we can't decide.

Well, keep me updated.

Yeah, we'll text you, "Still haven't decided."

I really didn't want to work last Thursday but a visit from Mimi and Nat cheered me up.

After work I went to Together Gallery

Dude! That's my purse!



This redneck dude was like, "You're fifty yards behind me, faggot!"



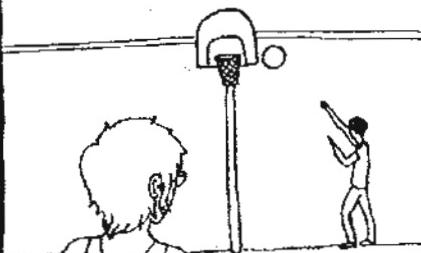
Where some drunk guy kept trying to put his shoes in our bags.

Then went and sat with Keith and Winchel Heartless.

I worked and made a new friend.



7月31日2009



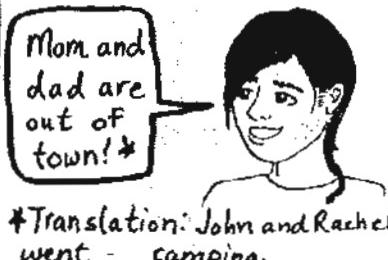
After work I watched Winchel Heartless play basketball for awhile.

I went to Irumi's going away party.



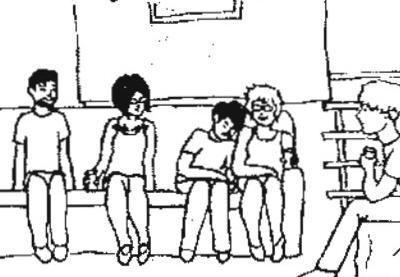
(We were at the co-op.)

Back home!



\*Translation: John and Rachel went - camping.

So everyone came over!





I worked.

8月1日 2009

TXT to Todd: Can you tell Jesse I'm sorry but I'm too tired to ride that far.  
Next time!

FROM Todd:  
Done and done.



Then was too tired for movie night.

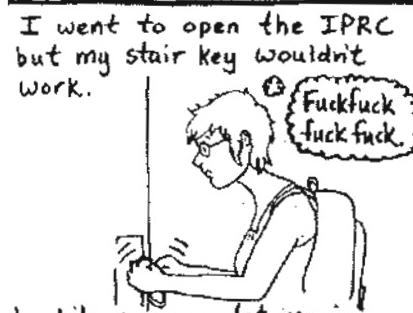


I went up to the Bear Hug but wasn't feeling it.



Sigh.

I headed home when everyone started talking about the Blazers.



Luckily someone let me in.

8月2日 2009

Don't be buttholes.

Does anyone still say that?



Syd and Somi hung out while I folded Milkyboots #8.



Then met up with Caroline and Stromgren at the Bluffs.

Paris was having a party when we went back to the house.

Hey guys... keep it down, Kay?



And I had the sucky job of playing mom.

I took my paycheck to the bank and paid rent.



Our neighbor called the landlord about our party (last night. (Again.)

8月3日2009

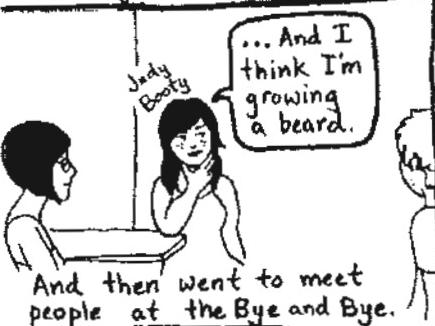
I read the new Milky boots.

Yeah? What'd you think?

I'm only in like, 3 parts.



I ran into Arian on my way to Bridge City Comics.



And then went to meet people at the Bye and Bye.



I was excited to run into 2 ladies from my temp job.



But it made me kind of sad. I can't work there any more.



And later I cuddled with Rach at Vendetta.

Woke up at 7 at a friend's house and panicked.



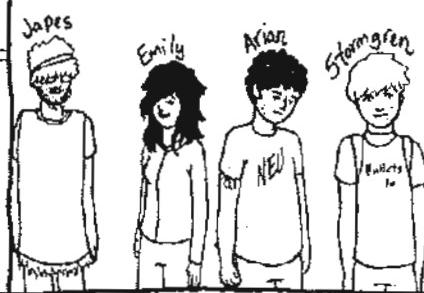
8月6日 2009



I finally called my old therapist to set up an appointment.



A bunch of people came over to say bye to John.



John is moving so he can go to med school...



I'm going to miss him a ton.♡

As Japes was leaving...



John got into a school  
in Chicago.



Back home, John, Rach and I played Scrabble.



John and Rachel headed to a party in the SE. I decided to stay in.

John hit a car  
on his bike.  
He hit his  
head really  
hard!

He might have a concussion!\*

\* It turned out to be a broken collarbone.

8月8日2009



However, at 4am...

So I stayed up and had a beer with Japes.

I gave Milkyboots 8 to my roommate and she said that I was an asshole.

Really? I tried  
to make you not  
look like an  
asshole.

Are we friends yet, Virgie?

Yes. But you're still a ridiculous human being

Paris and I made breakfast/lunch together.



8月12日2009

Arian must beat Don Hellions practice.



I think that cute girl  
is the one who  
commented on my blog.  
I wonder why  
she didn't  
say hi when  
she got coffee?

=At work...

Hey! Are you  
Olivia?

...

Yeah.

My housemates and I are going  
to a barn dance on Friday.  
Would you wanna go?

Yeah! I've  
been wanting  
to go to one!

Is she shaking?!  
That's adorable!

Hold on...

Did I  
just  
get  
asked  
on a  
date?



Olivia and I walked all around Alberta St. getting treats...



breakfast at Vita, a new Micon & coconut water.

We got caught in some weird rain on the way back to my house.



\* She told me that the rain reminded her of this song the next day.

9月2日2009

After work I went and played rummy with Olivia and her housemate.



Their neighbors argued throughout the entire game.



I went downtown to help A.M. set up the IPRC art show but.

{ 9/3/2009 }

(Let's try something different today, shall we?)



so I went to Powell's and found Todd.

(he was painting birds)

Then I went to Kayti's and had a really good convo\* about our lives and relationships. (\*fueled by red wine)

I look at you and where you are at 22 versus where I was at 22 and you are so much driven and focused-directed, than I was.

Yeah, but I feel like sometimes I should be doing what you were-hanging out, meeting people...



(We ended up agreeing that ultimately you can't make mistakes.)

I ran into someone from Louisville when I went back to the IPRC.

{ 9/3/2009 }

cont...

Drew, an acquaintance  
Olivia came & met me



We went to Pony Club which was too crowded.



Olivia + I walked to the store and I {9/4/2009} /  
bought hella groceries



That night, my friends came over for my house warming and some porch sitting.

When you get married, I'm gonna pee on the groom's face!



I can be asexual  
if I want to be!



Picture this  
we were both  
nude  
bangin' on  
the bathroom  
floor orz



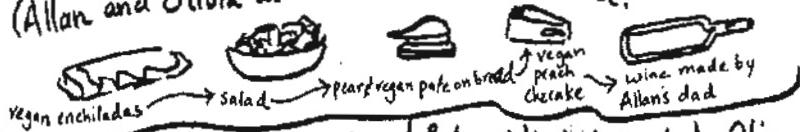
Everyone was in fine form, for Olivia's 1st time meeting them.

My throat still hurts. I keep waking up in the middle of the night which also wakes Olivia.

= 9/20/2009 =  
I worked on my home, work at the IPRC and policed the teen hours.



Jill decided to have people over for dinner. I invited Heartless, Dick Jokes, Allan, and Olivia came too, natch! We served:



I was really mean to Rachel.

I mean, I thought it was the "in love with you" look, I just didn't think Rachel was capable of that depth of emotion.

Later, Winchel read to Olie and I from the dictionary. I kept interrupting with critiques.



I actually felt okay when I woke up.



I called my mom & dad while I was cleaning up the backyard.

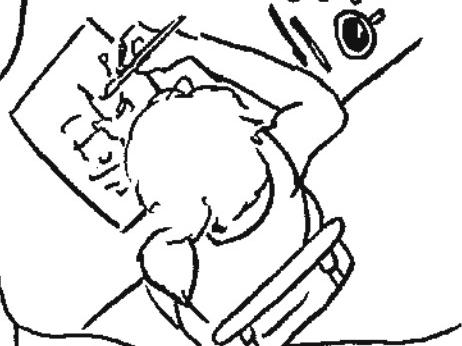


I knew my parents would be accepting but still was a hard thing to bring up for some reason...

Olivia left for class and I

finished my homework, deciding (with roommate Ryan's help) to do a light wash on the character in my gag panel.

9/21/2009



Then I went to class.



I started not feeling so great again. I think it was the air-conditioning.

I felt like ass this morning so I stopped at work on the way home from Olivia's to talk to my manager 



I couldn't get ahold of anyone, but my manager saved the day.



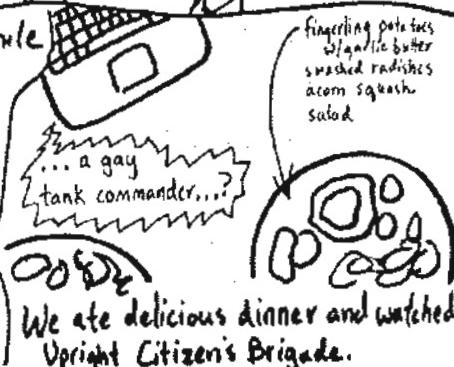
Olivia came over, bringing juice and thai soup ramen-y things. We spent the day reading internet comics and facebooking and laying around.



I ran to the video store while Olivia was making dinner.



The clerks were listening  
to lightning Bolt.



I stopped at the co-op on my way home and was disgruntled to find it closed.



I went to work. We were busy-ish because of last Thursday:



A visit from Winchel was a welcome distraction.

9/24/2009

At home, Jill was getting ready for work.



When I got home, Olivia and I dragged a mattress up from the basement.



a pretty awesome morning...

"9月25日2009"



Oh embarrassing!  
All 3 housemates were  
home too...

But no one  
said anything.  
So maybe they  
didn't see?

Then we realized we'd left  
the door open the whole time.

I helped Olivia move but  
was feeling really spacedy...

Then we went to the Bluffs  
to meet some folks.



So we went and got coffee  
at the oddly sterile Albina  
Press.



# Portland / Dreamland



I've done a lot of moving around in my adult life.

So I'm familiar with how it feels to leave somewhere. For me, whatever came before becomes a dream. Not even a memory, but something completely unreal. Another life. Maybe even someone else's life. I think things like "I lived in Philly? No, that wasn't me."



This move has been different, because Louisville still feels real and Portland seems like a dream.

My life in Louisville was good.



I was settled.

Then, heartbreak picked a fight with me and won. In 2008 I broke up with my boyfriend of six years, got dumped twice, [REDACTED], one friend died suddenly, another friend attempted suicide, one of my closest friends was killed on her bike and most of my remaining friends moved away.

A couple stalwart friends remained in Louisville, but I became very solitary. Everyone and everything seemed broken and stalled. Finally I decided to take Daniel up on his offer.

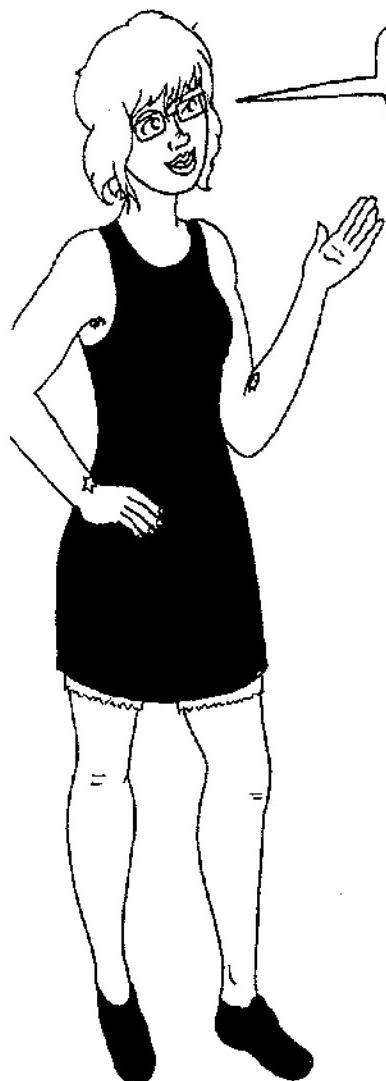
Saying this sucked would be an understatement to end understatements.

Move to Portland...

...We've got a room.



So I moved. Things started out slowly, but now:



I have three awesome jobs: I do historical research for a graphic novelist; I'm the youth programming coordinator at the **IPRC**, one of my favorite places in the world; and I'm a barista ☕/sandwich maker 🥪 at a small cafe.

My friends are all good-hearted ☺ and hilarious folks who provide excellent fodder for my comics.

I've gained a small degree of fame as a comics/zine person. I'm in school for comics and self-publishing.

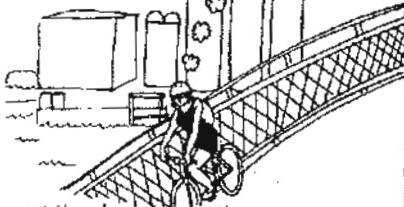
I live in a huge house with cheap rent and three great, arty roommates, located close to everything.

And I have an amazing, ridiculously cute girlfriend.

So great, actually, that it seems unreal. I find myself thinking:

Just take Vancouver down to Shaver and take a right.

Wait, I live in Portland!



While doing really mundane things.

I've been trying to listen more to the voice that says:

I deserve this.

I've worked hard to be this awesome.

Louisville still feels real.



It's the masochist in me that says that this is how life should be hard, painful and lonely.

Now instead of asking "What's going to go wrong next?" I ask:

How could things possibly get awesomer?

Let's just hope I don't jinx myself.

Thanks, Portland!

Too drunk to go home last night, so I got up extra early for work.

deadly deadly doof  
deadly deadly dof!

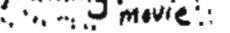
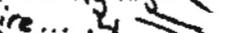
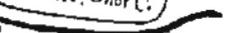
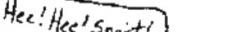
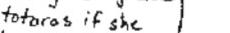
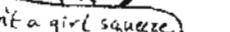


Winchel & less came over and we decided to have a fire.



After work I got groceries and a new gel pen.

3/09/2009



I woke up panicked because I hadn't started my home-work



and went home despite plans of coffee + bagels.

While I was working on my strip, my old roomie/ex-boyfriend/friend (?) FB messaged me about coming thru on tour.



What, is everyone I haven't seen in years gonna visit me in 2009?

10/5/2009

After considerable outfit difficulties, rode downtown to meet Patrick to draw.



I felt really, really sleepy at Tugboat and during class.

After class, Rachel's goodbye party at the Bye+Bye



Camille (PDX) Emily (PDX)



Sarah (Toledo) Lynn (Cleveland)

Was full of folks I haven't seen in a long time!

Emily and I made plans

... and I had a tearful goodbye



to link our non-profit jobs...



with Rachel, who I will miss terribly. ♡

Another fabulous, much needed } 10月6日2009 @  
\* gaycation\* day }  
~~~~~



Then we headed to the Bluffs for a cute, thrown-together picnic



I got a cold again, so going to work at the cafe was less than pleasant.



So I made 8,000 espresso drinks instead.



10/10/2009

At home I made hot + sour soup and an anti-cold concoction before getting dressed for the fest ball.

All black cause I'm the bartender!

Olivia dressed as Huck Finn.



I bartended with moral support.



We took the bus to the SE.

But I made really good tips!

Ballin'!

I had some issues with the corkscrew.



Then back on the bus and to Olivia's house.

Girl, I'm gonna buy you so much breakfast...



\* I woke up to 3 texts from my ex, who I haven't talked to in 6 mo.s. I had messaged him 3 months ago, but he still does everything on his own terms only. So frustrating.

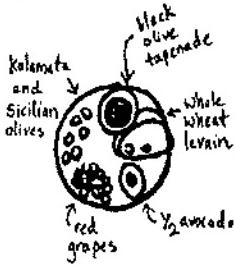
8/10/11/2009

Olivia and I got breakfast at Vita.

Then I went to meet my comics adviser, Aron. It was kind of funny.



I ate the most ridiculous dinner that was mostly olives -



Olivia came over and we made mulled wine.



I used a little from each recipe I read. (One big ass bottle & cheap wine, brown sugar, 1/2 an orange, 1/2 a lemon, star anise, 17 cloves, 10 black pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks).

And tried to do more homework.

We shared it with my housemate Ryan around the fire.



I woke up at 7:45 and  
couldn't get back to  
sleep.



So I (quietly) did the  
dishes from last night's  
dinner party.

(She also got  
me a new brush  
pen!)

At the IPRC, A.M.  
gave me a bunch of projects!



10/18/2009

My advisor Aram came  
by to drop off comics.



I finished most of my projects  
and started sketching the cover  
for the new IPRC catalog.

After work, I made a quick stop at  
Olivia's before heading to a super-  
awkward bonfire at Caroline's.



We left pretty quickly and  
I read Scott Pilgrim in bed.

Olivia had a giggle fit  
because I kept smushing  
my face into her boobs.



Then we made  
popcorn and  
watched "Son of  
Rambow."



What happened yesterday? → { 10月22日 2009  
I've been feeling pretty stressed and it was my  
day off this week.

Olivia and I  
went to the new  
vegan bakery on  
Alberta.



I tried to work  
on the homeworks...  
My final project is boring.

Winchel Heartless came over.  
We read aloud to each other  
from a Christian self-help  
book for girls.



I finally started reading a library book\* I've had for 3 months while getting ready for work.



\*The Alphabet vs. The Goddess

I had completely forgotten I had a house guest coming to stay today...



= 10月 25日 2009  
WORK was slow at first so my coworker and I tried to do cross words.

It was dark when I got dressed so I accidentally picked 2 plaid.

Hah hah.



This is Brent, friend of a friend, in PDX to go to the United Bicycle Institute.

Jill started reading the self-help book\* while I was drawing.



\* Christian self-help book for girls

Then I went to Olivia's & hung out with her and her housemates.



## Conversations I have enjoyed in the last week...



I switched days for my co-op shift. I miss working with Dusty & Micki~



but atleast the coffee was already made.

I was confused by someone else's notes in the herb log.

10/29/2009  
When I came out someone had stolen my fancy bike light.

Well, there goes half my spending money for the month.

I went home and drew until last Thursday started.

awesome fabric sculpture!



Sighhh...



Then I went to Together Gallery to say hi to Seth.

Jill's installation was really cool.

Back at my house, Stormgrov and I watched a skeleton parade.

I'm going to be Arnold Rimmer.

Fuck yeah, that's awesome!

(our garage)



I've been feeling unfocused and overwhelmed and 1st Thursdays give me weird anxiety, but I headed downtown anyway.



After I crossed the Bridge I ran into Kayti and Daniel helping a biker who'd hit a car. Hey!



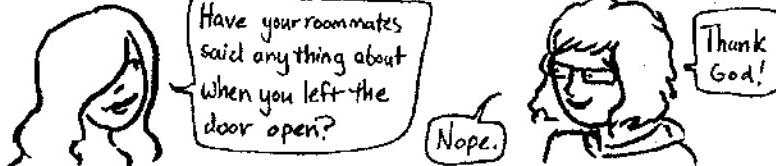
The Broadway Bridge was up for the first time since I moved here.



The ship on the river was HUGE. Well, that was traumatic. I continued onto Nicole Georges' art opening.



After the opening, I went to Daniel and Kayti's for a bit.



It was actually nice out for Olivia and I's big grocery shopping day.



We went to Cherry Sprout and the co-op.

So we ran to New Seasons...



Made and ate our snack before heading to Winchell's.

It was raining on our way home but we were singin' anyway.  
or the way the back lane came alive/half moon whispered go!



Afterwards I went home to draw for a bit.

8/17/09  
O O O O O

The SEPTA logo looked like this...

Olivia came over to make guacamole but...



Keith and others came over too. Keith was eating convenience store burritos.

I just put a lot of sauce on 'em so I can't taste 'em.



My hours have been cut at the cafe, putting me in a distressingly familiar position:

Pretty much broke.

At least I get to see my fav. coworker with my new hours.

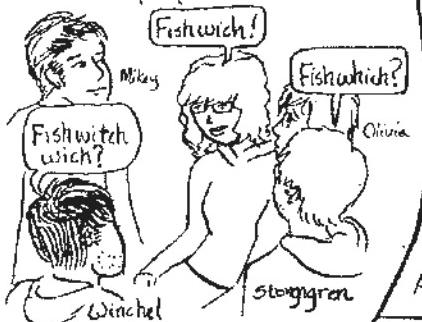
Back home, Jill's b-day potluck was just getting started. I made a cake and started drinking wine.

11/18/2009

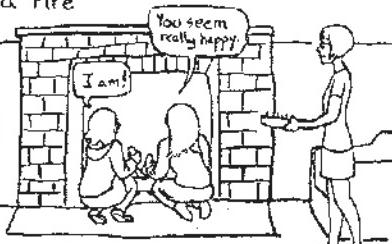


We got so much wine!

Lots of people came over...



The Inventor and I started a fire



And S.M. brought out the cake.



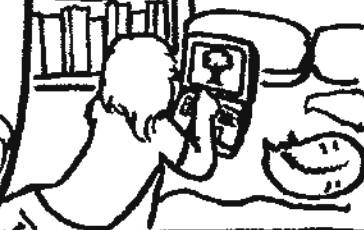
And things quickly devolved from there...



My continuing struggle with what to wear...



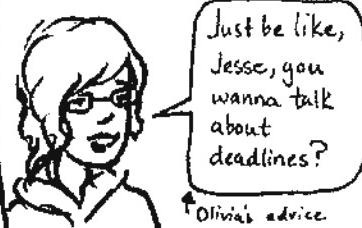
Lyra spent ~~11~~ 11/23/2009  
the whole afternoon on the bed with Olivia,  
who was looking up trees.



My final project pencils are due today  
but I ran out of bristol -



I didn't finish but it didn't matter...



my teacher didn't look at them.

In class, we worked on our collaborative comic "Job Quest."



Then I fell asleep watching  
"Spirited Away."



My name is Virginia. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I moved to Portland from Kentucky almost a year ago. I feel weird about writing bios.

Contact me! vlpaine@yahoo.com

Need more milky boots? Visit meat:  
milkyboots.blogspot.com



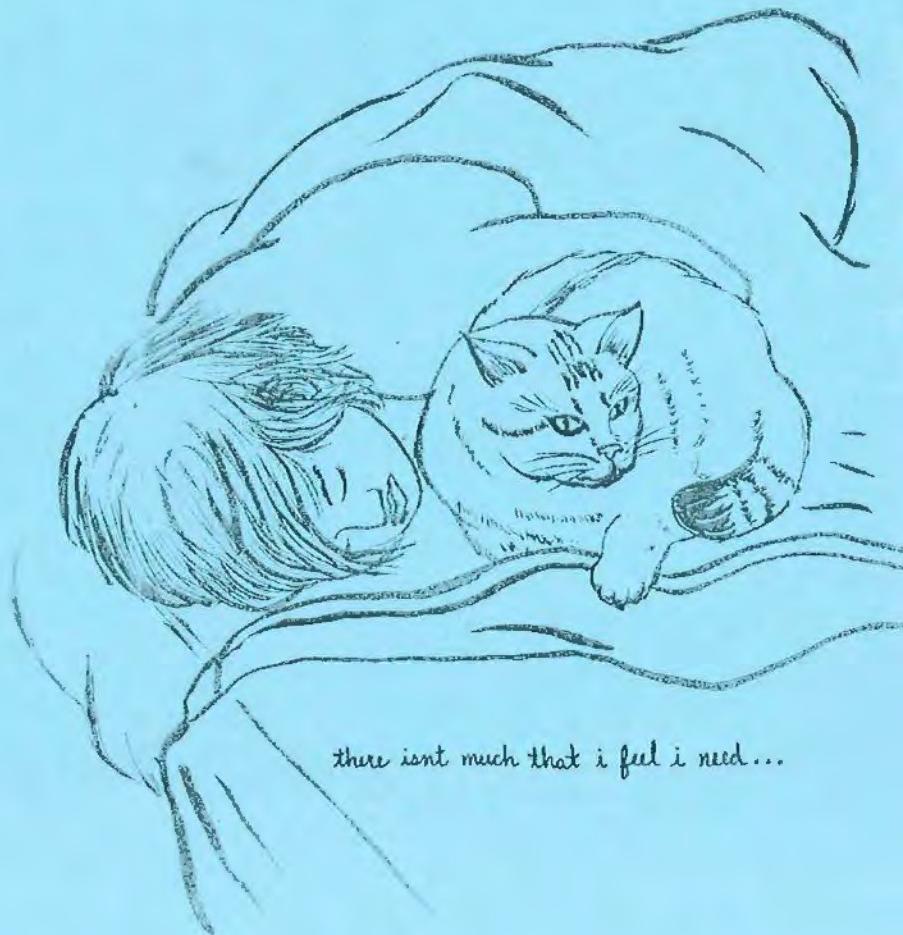
confronting my  
demons in my dreams

# Milkyboots!

diary comics



[milkyboots.blogspot.com](http://milkyboots.blogspot.com)



there isn't much that i feel i need...